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16 June 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR CIA MEMBER UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

THROUGH : Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : Overseas Handling, Processing and Reporting
of Sensitive Photography

REFERENCE : USIB-D-41.11/5 (COMOR-D-36/5), 11 June 1965

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1. This is a briefing note on the above subject. The USIB Secretariat is requesting vote sheet action by close of business 17 June 1965.

2. The basic authority for overseas handling, processing and reporting on sensitive overhead photography has been an agreement made in 1957 between the CIA and the U.S. Air Force, before COMOR, NPIC, NRO or DIA existed. After an exchange of correspondence between the Director NRO, the Director, DIA, and the DDCI beginning in April 1964, an Ad Hoc Committee was established to review policies and procedures on overseas processing and reporting, and make recommendations for updating them. The attached report represents the results of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

3. Since 1958 there have been a number of complaints, primarily by CIA, about the quality of field processing of photography, and to lesser degree, about field photo interpretation. In the past two years the criticism has centered mainly on the processing at Yokota, Japan (67th Recce Tech Squadron). NRO tried to up-grade that unit, but had difficulty in effecting changes through the multiple commands involved, and in obtaining community acceptance of the improved capability after it had been accomplished. The Ad Hoc Committee attacked these and other related problems by assigning specific responsibilities to NRO, COMOR, NPIC and the various DOD components involved, and setting up certification procedures for processing. A proposal to establish NPIC in the field units to handle the photo interpretation was considered but rejected because of the uncertain future of the GRC program, the small

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★ (number of missions that require field readout, and the disadvantages, recognized by both NPIC and the military services, to a mixed civilian and military unit within a military command structure.

4. The final report of the Ad Hoc Committee was agreed to by CIA only after extensive internal coordination.

5. Recommendation:

It is recommended that you approve the recommendations of the COMOR by signing the attached vote sheet.



CIA Member COMOR

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